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WINTER EDITION 2015/2016

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Challenging heifer replacements to make 400kg by 400 days

Beef nutrition

How a simple diet change can break a disease cycle.



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THE EDITOR

Welcome to the 'Winter' issue of Livestock Matters

In this issue we have an unusual case from the beef herd, where a change in ration led to breaking a disease cycle that was causing stillbirths and poor calf performance. Lee-Anne Oliver from Scott Mitchell talks us through the investigation they undertook – that eventually revealed the root cause to be from a bacterium in silage.

With European Antibiotic Awareness Day taking place annually on 18th November, our second article on the subject of selective dry cow therapy (SDCT) reinforces the role both vets and farmers have in preserving antibiotics for future generations. Friars Moor take us through the why and how of selective dry cow therapy and provide some practical tips for readers. If you want to find out more about any aspect of SDCT then please do speak to your XLVets practice.

As the XLVets 'Stand up to Sheep Lameness' initiative gains momentum, we learn how one farm tackled sheep lameness with the help of their vet Adelle Isaacs from Larkmead Veterinary Group. We also find out how Leanne Ford from Bishopton got on with their FarmSkills sheep lameness workshop that ran recently.

We hope you enjoy the Winter issue of Livestock Matters. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank all our contributors – both vets and farm clients of XLVets practices – for helping ensure we've covered interesting and informative articles for readers during 2015 and, from all at XLVets, best wishes for a prosperous New Year to all our readers.



We hope you enjoy this issue of Livestock Matters.

Joanne Sharpe XLVets



CONTENTS

ANIMAL HEALTH

- 07 **Stillbirths and early calf losses are prevented by simple change of diet**
Lee-Anne Oliver from Scott Mitchell investigated a case of high numbers of stillbirths and poor calves. Following a lengthy investigation we find out how the problem was tracked down to a bacterium in the silage.
- 09 **Selective dry cow therapy: Why and how?**
The days of blanket treatment at drying-off are numbered. Here Julian Allen and Helen Rogers from Friars Moor explain why selective treatments are now best practice and provide some practical tips for readers.
- 11 **New strategies to reduce lameness in the flock**
Adelle Isaacs, Larkmead Veterinary Group talks us through how a flock health plan has helped introduce some radical changes to combat sheep lameness on one client's farm.

FARMSKILLS

- 13 **Stand up to sheep lameness**
Leanne Ford, Bishopton Veterinary Group talks us through training for, planning and running a FarmSkills sheep lameness workshop.

FEATURE

- 15 **Calf health**
As part of the XLVets calf tracker initiative, we take a look at how Parklands Veterinary Group and its farmers have achieved some excellent improvements in calf performance – through the '4x4 club'.

GRADUATE DIARIES

- 17 **Over and out**
Katherine Lumb and Matthew Hylands provide their final round-up of recent activity from a year of following them in Livestock Matters



Stiff competition at AgriScot 2015

The XLVets stand at AgriScot 2015 was once again a very busy and exciting place to be with calf halter tying generating stiff competition amongst visitors.

BVD remained a key focus on the stand with many farmers still unsure about how they should deal with the disease on farm; questions about testing and vaccination were frequent from attending farmers not just in Scotland, but from throughout the UK.

Sheep lameness was also discussed with the 'connect four' challenge demonstrating that the different conditions need to be identified correctly to ensure that the best treatment is given.

Many thanks to all the XLVets members that helped throughout the day.



XLVets 10th Anniversary Charity Challenge clocks up almost 35,000 miles and £35k for charity

The XLVets charity challenge has been a huge success with over £35,000 raised for charity and 34,727 miles travelled in total. The XLVets practices have between them clocked up over 11,000 miles more than the original target of 23,605.63 miles!

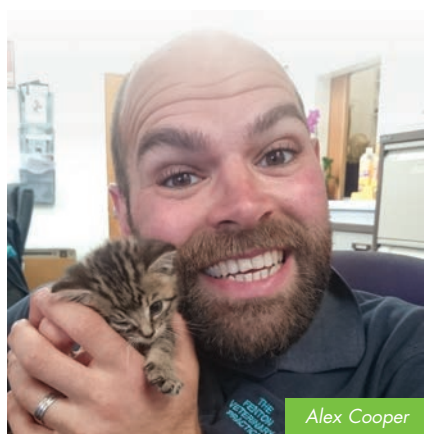


The money raised has been split between XLVets member practices' local chosen charities and Send a Cow, which will receive a cheque for £15,571 (which will buy more than 20 cows).

Alex Cooper of Fenton Vets, raised the most money, totalling £1,966. For his efforts, Alex has won a trip to Africa with Send a Cow. His practice also clocked up the furthest distance, travelling an amazing 4,516 miles!

Sophie Porfirio, corporate partnerships manager for Send a Cow is delighted with the donation: 'It's a big fat thank-moo(!) from everyone at Send a Cow to everyone at XLVets who have made this fabulous donation possible.'

Alex is heading out to Africa in February so we hope to follow his trip in a future issue of Livestock Matters where we will find out more about the work Send a Cow does and how the XLVets money raised will support this.



Alex Cooper



XLVets members present the cheque to Send a Cow



XLVets farm client wins ‘Tesco Dairy Farmer of the Year’ award

by Paddy Gordon, Shepton Veterinary Group

Tesco has a pool of over 600 dedicated farmers supplying milk and these form the Tesco Sustainable Dairy Group (TSDG). TSDG farmers need to self-assess on a number of outcome measures in addition to Red Tractor farm assurance. Performance is checked annually by an external auditor. The Standards, along with target and intervention levels are reviewed annually by the TSDG Committee, which includes myself. The TSDG Dairy Farmer of the Year is judged by a Committee review of performance against Standards and then I visited the shortlisted farms to judge the TSDG Farmer of the Year. I was delighted to see that all three shortlisted farms for 2015 were with XLVets practices. The farmers recognised were all achieving very high Index scores (indicating achieving Standards expected across most measures), in particular high levels of cleanliness, body condition and mobility, with scores completed accurately and on time. They are all recognised as leaders in the dairy sector, also receiving recognition from other organisations.

Highly commended were the Waters family, near Newport in Gwent. Stephen, Bev, Chris and Andrew Waters run a family farm of 116 cows, each producing 8,200 litres of milk per cow. Their vet is David Preece from Tyndale Vets. All the family contribute in different areas, with great attention to detail and this can be seen in the excellent appearance of the herd, with all cows meeting standards for cleanliness and body condition. They were the best herd for the welfare section in the Index, with 98% longevity, low mobility score and no leg lesions. They have used the TSDG John’s testing requirement to adopt an active management plan, and made great progress towards eradicating this infection. They said the TSDG index ‘gives us the information we need’ and use this with their advisers to make the right decisions for their herd.

Highly commended is Neil Baker, from Crewkerne. His vet is Jon Reader from Synergy Farm Health. As RABDF Gold Cup winner, and featured in a previous issue of Livestock Matters, Neil Baker needs little introduction. His herd has expanded to 1,800 cows each producing 11,700 litres, where he drives the highest standards for health. His Index scores were the highest for milk quality and for cow health. Neil achieves low disease rates through clearly identified written protocols, usually in Polish and English, and an active management plan. This has allowed him to reduce antibiotics used for both dry cow and mastitis, and this will enhance his Index score further. He also hosts around 800 visitors on his farm for Open Farm Sunday.

received numerous awards, including the 2015 Cream Awards Milk from Forage Award, and Brook House Farm was judged the Cheshire Farm of the year 2015. The farm demonstrates the very highest standards of health and welfare, which is apparent from the low stocking rate and the attention to detail. Adrian and Alison achieve the very highest Index scores for calf health, as a result of active monitoring and management of calving resulting in low stillbirth rates. Their colostrum and rearing approach was excellent, resulting in negligible calf losses. The outcome is seen in excellent cow health and longevity. They are active in promoting the dairy sector, hosting public visits by schools, scouts and the Women’s Institute. Adrian makes great effort to enhance the farm appearance for visitors. He recruits local people, providing them with training, and in return has great loyalty from his staff. Overall Adrian Smith is fully deserving of his TSDG Farmer of the Year Award due to not only his high standards but also his active promotion of dairy farming.

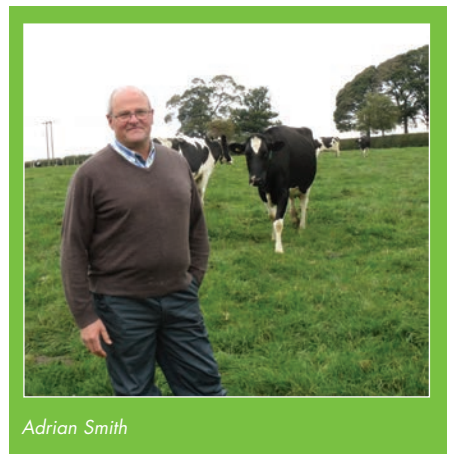


Steve and Chris Waters



Neil Baker

The winner of this year’s TSDG Farmer of the Year is Adrian Smith, from Middlewich in Cheshire. His vet is Mark Proctor, from Willows Veterinary Group. Adrian and Alison keep 210 cows, plus followers, each producing 8,500 litres of milk. The farm has



Adrian Smith

J ACTION JOHNE'S



In April 2015, Dairy UK and AHDB Dairy awarded a contract to a consortium of XLVets, RAFT Solutions Ltd, SRUC and SAC Vet Services to deliver awareness and involvement in the National Johne's Management Plan (NJMP) – the Action Johne's Delivery Team. Since launching in April 2015, the Action Johne's Delivery Team has engaged milk purchasers covering 80% of UK milk produced by volume to deliver the National Johne's Management Plan. The team have also developed a new website, leaflets, buying guides and webinars to help farmers, vets and milk purchasers understand what they need to do to take control of Johne's on farm and are working with the British Cattle Veterinary Association to provide further veterinary training.

The NJMP was developed and agreed by a technical steering group of leading experts earlier this year to provide a series of six strategies for Johne's disease control on farm. These strategies to control Johne's disease in the dairy herd are:

1. Biosecurity, protect and monitor

For herds which have completed appropriate screening tests and have no evidence of disease, a robust biosecurity and surveillance protocol must be established to protect the herd from disease entry, including regular vet monitoring. It must be remembered that with minimal surveillance testing it may be possible to miss the arrival of the disease and allow it to gain a foothold within the herd before it is identified, especially if the herd has management strategies which would facilitate spread.

2. Improved farm management

For herds with low risk and low prevalence, who are able to commit labour resource to managing Johne's disease, work with your vet to manage ALL cows as if they are infected and at risk. Control the disease by breaking the cycle of transmission from cow to calf through management changes across EVERY cow in the herd. This strategy must be combined with robust surveillance and reviews of risk.

3. Improved farm management, risk assessment and strategic testing

For herds with a higher prevalence, work with your vet to identify infected cows for management earlier through strategic testing. Implement management

changes to break the cycle of transmission for these cows. As always, employ biosecurity and biocontainment measures with your vet.

4. Improved farm management, test and cull

Suitable for low prevalence herds wanting to quickly remove infected animals from the herd BEFORE they get a chance to spread Johne's disease. Work with your vet to adopt a culling policy on top of steps 1-3.

5. Breed to terminal sire

This strategy may be suitable for herds with a high risk and high prevalence with no wish to breed their own replacements or the ability/resource to manage the risks through improved farm management. This is not a way to remove Johne's disease and its effects from a farm. No replacement animals are bred, all cows are served to a terminal beef sire and all offspring are fattened for slaughter. Replacements are sourced from herds with lower levels of Johne's disease. It must also be remembered that on a farm with very high levels of Johne's disease, transmission between adult animals is possible. It may still be prudent to undertake testing to help identify cows for removal. ALL calves produced in this system MUST be slaughtered for beef and NOT enter the suckler herd as breeding animals.

6. Firebreak vaccination

Vaccination may be a short term option for high risk, high prevalence herds as a firebreak to 'buy some time' until another strategy can be adopted. However, once

a herd is vaccinated it becomes very difficult to determine whether an animal is infected as the tests cannot differentiate between antibodies from vaccination and infection which complicates disease management. Vaccination must be undertaken under the advice and supervision of your vet. It should be noted that the Johne's disease vaccination can interfere with the reading of the TB test and some milk processors may not collect milk from Johne's disease vaccinated herds.

At all stages of the Plan the individual farmers are encouraged to speak with their farm vet to develop a bespoke Johne's disease control plan for their farm.

Alastair Hayton from RAFT and the Action Johne's team said: 'Helping farmers improve their Johne's disease controls on farm will have a positive effect on many other aspects of production, and so even in these challenging economic times, is a worthwhile step to take. We know animals with Johne's disease are likely to be culled earlier, and are likely to be affected by other conditions, including chronic mastitis, lameness and high somatic cell counts.'

In this first phase of the NJMP programme, farmers will be asked to assess the risks of entry, presence and spread of MAP infection (which leads to Johne's disease) in their herd and determine their Johne's disease risk and status by March 2016. By October 2016, in consultation with their vet, participating farmers will need to have implemented one of the six control strategies developed by the Action Group on Johne's.

A new approach to twin lamb disease

XLVets member practice Tyndale Vets is advocating a three-pronged approach to tackling twin lamb disease.

'Traditional treatment for twin lamb disease involved the provision of energy through intravenous glucose or oral propylene glycol,' explains Fergus Hannon from Tyndale Vets. 'More recent studies of twin lamb disease however, have suggested some additions to this treatment regime in order to maximise ewe survival and lamb viability.'

In light of this, vets at the practice developed Ewe-Go; a unique combination product which provides ewes with calcium as well as energy. 'Low calcium levels decrease the ability of the ewe to produce glucose, and so inhibits recovery from pregnancy toxemia. It's for this reason that the inclusion of calcium in Ewe-Go is vitally important,' says Fergus.

As well as this, vets at the practice have found that the use of an anti-inflammatory injection in conjunction with treatment with Ewe-Go significantly increases the survival of ewes and their offspring, compared with

those treated with glucose and calcium alone. 'The combination of Ewe-Go drench and a nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory injection gives every ewe suffering from twin lamb disease the best chance of recovery, and a successful lambing,' says Fergus. 'We have been supplying Ewe Go to our clients and veterinary practices in the UK for 3 years now with excellent results'.

Reports from farmers indicate improvements in ewe survival, but also importantly increases in the number of live-born lambs, following treatment of the ewe with Ewe-Go. Ewe-Go oral drench is available to order from your XLVets practice in 1 litre flexi packs, which allow attachment of a dosing gun for ease of administration. Ewes should be administered 100ml orally, followed by an anti-inflammatory injection.

For more information on Ewe-Go and the management of twin lamb disease please scan the QR code, or contact your XLVets practice.



UK Dairy Day

by James Allcock,
Lambert, Leonard & May

We were looking forward to a busy day in Telford at the UK Dairy Day having had a very successful and popular stand when the event started last year.

Lambert Leonard & May took their new modular and mobile pub, 'The Lucky Cow' and the main thrust of their communications surrounded supporting dairy farmers during the tough industry conditions.

For Lambert Leonard & May this means promoting new ways in which our team of four VetTechs can help farms manage their herd health. It also involves taking a proactive look at what our clients are spending on health care and comparing that with other farms. The tool we use is called 'VetInvest' and to highlight this idea the

Lucky Cow was this year sporting a toilet with bank notes being 'flushed' away down the pan! On the back of each bank note farmers could leave name and contact details to be entered into a prize draw for a Jeroboam of champagne.

This show is really local for us and it only takes us away from the business for one day. We see a huge number of our clients and seem to have become established on one of the better locations, having supported the show from the outset. We will definitely be back in 2016.

Also exhibiting at the event was XLVets practice Shropshire Farm Vets, who had BVD Check Tag factsheets and information clearly displayed for discussion with visitors. Scarsdale Veterinary Group were busy running a FarmSkills workshop in the cattle lines - which attracted many visitors as they were 'painting' a cow. Well done to all member practices who were all kept very busy for the day.



Stillbirths and early calf losses are prevented by simple change of diet

Scott
& Mitchell
Associates
VETERINARY
SURGEONS



Veterinary surgeon **Lee-Anne Oliver**

XLVets practice **Scott Mitchell Associates**



Lee-Anne Oliver, Scott Mitchell Associates

Northumberland beef suckler farmer Alan Dent had been experiencing high numbers of stillbirths and calves born dopey and slow to suckle. The cause was a mystery. But after lengthy investigations involving post mortems, diagnostic tests and some literature research, his vet Lee-Anne Oliver of Scott Mitchell Associates was able to track down the cause: a bacterium in the silage. A simple ration change has resolved the problem.



Bacterial count in silage is being monitored by Lee-Anne Oliver of Scott Mitchell Associates

Lost calves

At Beamwham Farm, near Hexham, Alan Dent runs a herd of 80 suckler cows (Belgian Blue crosses and Limousin crosses put to Limousin bulls) and a flock of 700 sheep.

The calving season typically used to run from December to January, and then from March to May. Cows would be housed from November until May, and fed grass silage from the clamp.

In the calving season of 2012-2013, Alan's herd suffered a large number of stillbirths; 15 of the 77 calves were stillborn – representing almost a fifth of the herd! And there were two further deaths in very young calves which had been dopey and slow to rise when born.

Alan says: 'At first Lee-Anne thought this could have been due to slow calvings. But I knew there was a different problem as the water bags just didn't look right – they would be brown and really watery.'

Dead calves were sent for post mortems and laboratory testing. Alan says: 'I was a bit reluctant to do this as we've not had a lot of success in the past. But we had to find what was causing the problem...or sell the cows.'

As well as post mortems, Lee-Anne instigated a number of other diagnostic tests to try to identify the cause. But tests for BVD, IBR and Neospora all came back negative. Nor were any trace element deficiencies detected.

The problems continued into the next winter. In the 2013-2014 calving season, another 17 calves were lost – again through stillbirth and early death.

Lee-Anne explains: 'It was only when we had two post mortems in a row which showed the presence of *Bacillus licheniformis*, that we realised this could be the issue.'

A bacterial culprit

Bacillus licheniformis is a bacterium found in soil, from which it can be introduced into silage clamps. It is the most commonly diagnosed infectious agent that causes abortion in cattle in Scotland.

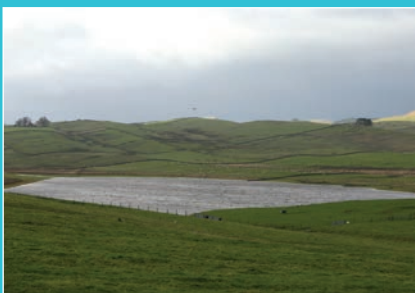
Lee-Anne explains: 'The *Bacillus* targets the placenta causing inflammation and restricting the blood supply to the calf; this deprives the unborn calf of oxygen causing it distress. This can result in the calf being aborted – between 150 and 270 days in the pregnancy.

Alternatively it can result in a stillbirth, or the birth of a dopey calf which does not have the energy to suckle and hence is more likely to die early.

'*Bacillus* cases are usually isolated one-offs, and not the storm that Alan experienced. And it was strange that none of the neighbouring farms had experienced this problem.

'Following a literature search, and with the help of the SAC, a diagnostic test for the bacterium was developed. We took samples from Alan's silage clamp for analysis as well as some from a local farm which had not had any stillbirth or abortion problems. Alan's silage contained more than three times the bacterial count of his neighbour's. And it was present both at the silage face and deep within the pit, indicating that the *Bacillus* growth occurred during the ensiling process rather than as a consequence of aerobic spoilage at the face of the pit.'

Lee-Anne adds: 'Beamwham has a reservoir. The surrounding grass fields are also quite wet and Canada geese graze these pastures in the winter. Alan cuts silage from these fields, and we found evidence in the literature that the bacterium can harbour in bird feathers.'



The farm's reservoir attracts wild birds which could be carriers of the *Bacillus*

'So there was a cycle of infection which needed to be broken. The *Bacillus* can survive through the cow, and so it would be present in cow dung which was spread on the silage fields, and then, perhaps with the added contributions from the wild birds, be ensiled each year.'

Solution: A ration change

With high levels of *Bacillus* identified in the silage, the solution was to completely remove grass silage from the diet of pregnant cows and replace with a straw-based ration.

So in December 2014, Alan began feeding his pregnant cows with ration based on straw (wheat) and distiller's grains.

Lee-Anne explains: 'It was now very important to ensure the pregnant cows were being fed appropriately on this straw-based ration. So I carried out some early PD tests – when cows were expected to be between 5 and 12 weeks pregnant. Then the cows were divided into three groups according to their body condition and pregnancy status.'



A temporary autumn calving herd has been established

To relieve pressure on the amount of straw required, for the 2014/2015 winter Alan allowed some cows to run through empty to form a small autumn calving herd.

The calving period was also tightened up. Alan explains: 'Before the 2012/13 calving season I'd been on an AI course. I keep all my heifer replacements and so wanted to put some different bulls onto them so I could use my own bulls for longer. I was also concerned that the herd was becoming very pure and I was losing the milk yield. So I was AIing my heifers with British Friesian sexed semen.

'As I was new at this, I'd started early. But heifers had held. So in 2012/2013 I ended up with a calving season that started in October instead of December!'

Alan has now adjusted his breeding strategy; heifers are AIed just once, and non-pregnant animals then put to the bull, so there is less time lost if the AI is not successful. For 2017, he will organise half the cows to calve in January-February and the rest April-May.



The straw has been an unwanted additional cost to Alan. But it is only needed for pregnant animals. The youngstock, store calves and replacement heifers can still be fed grass silage.

For the 2014-2015 calving season, Alan was extra vigilant, and primed for any calving that looked 'suspicious'.

The straw strategy was a success. Alan says: 'There were no stillbirths and the few calf deaths that occurred were not related to the bacterium. So I'm 'hopeful' that the problem has been resolved. But I don't want to tempt fate just yet, so I'm waiting to see how the 2016 calving goes!'



Going forward

Lee-Anne explains: 'Alan is going to need to keep feeding his pregnant cows on straw-based rations for the next few years. The *Bacillus*-contaminated muck and slurry has been spread on arable land.'

Alan and Lee-Anne will continue to monitor the situation. The bacterial levels in the silage are being routinely analysed. Alan has reseeded one of the silage fields after ploughing under the muck, in the hope of reducing the contamination – he is awaiting test results to see what effect this has had.

Lee-Anne adds: 'We needed to break the cycle; the cows were consuming the high-*Bacillus* silage, and then their slurry was being spread onto silage fields. This allowed infection levels to build up. So this problem had, quite literally, been brewing for a while.'



Pregnant cows on straw-based ration

Selective Dry Cow Therapy: Why and how?



**JULIAN ALLEN AND HELEN ROGERS,
FRIARS MOOR VETERINARY CLINIC**

The blanket use of an intra-mammary antibiotic at drying-off used to be best practice for all dairy herds. But times have changed. In well-managed dairy herds, the selective use of dry cow antibiotics, together with a teat sealant for all, is now best practice. Here, vets Julian Allen and Helen Rogers from Friars Moor Vet Practice, explain the 'why and how' of Selective Dry Cow Therapy (SDCT), and together with two farmers, provide some practical tips.

Why selective use?

Julian explains: 'There is mounting pressure to reduce the use of antibiotics in livestock farming, particularly where they are used in healthy animals for the prevention of infection, rather than treatment.

'In the dairy sector, the prime example of this is the use of whole herd antibiotic dry cow therapy (DCT). In many herds, where mastitis is well controlled, a significant number of cows will be uninfected at drying off, and it is hard to justify the use of antibiotics in these individuals.

'As a result, an increasing number of dairy farmers are choosing to selectively treat cows with intra-mammary antibiotics at drying off rather than using the traditional 'blanket' approach to DCT across the herd.

'There are cost savings to be made of course as fewer dry cow antibiotic tubes are used. There will also be less antibiotic contamination of colostrum – so potentially less risk of antimicrobial resistance developing.

'In addition, research has shown that giving one commonly used dry cow antibiotic, plus a teat sealant, to low cell count cows actually led to a 12-fold increase in risk of *E. coli* mastitis in the following lactation, when compared with using a teat sealant alone. This is thought to be due to the antibiotic removing some of the 'normal' protective bacteria from the teat and udder.'

The dry period

'The success rate of antibiotic treatment during the dry period is generally much higher than during lactation. So we need to take full advantage of this to 'clean up' infected cows while they are dry,' says Julian.

Dry cow therapy has two aims: 1) To remove mastitis pathogens that are present in the udder at the end of the lactation; 2) to protect the udder from new mastitis pathogens, as this period is often the highest risk time for new intra-mammary infections.

'Protecting the udder from new infections is best achieved with a teat sealant, as these provide a physical barrier which persists for the entire dry period.

'So every cow should receive a teat sealant at drying off, irrespective of her infection status.'



Thorough teat cleaning with surgical spirit and cotton wool technique for inserting teat sealant



Correct technique for inserting teat sealant



Dry cows at Longmoor Farm

Adopting a selective approach

Julian explains: 'The selection of cows for treatment with only a teat sealant needs to be done carefully, and in consultation with your vet.

Helen adds: 'Our advice is made on a farm-by-farm basis. The protocol is based on the bulk milk cell count and knowledge of the principle pathogens causing clinical and subclinical mastitis in the herd. Plus individual cow factors – their previous mastitis and cell count history, as well as parity.



Veterinary surgeons **Julian Allen and Helen Rogers**

XLVets practice **Friars Moor Veterinary Clinic**



'Then there are the human factors; the discipline in the parlour, attention to detail, the level of hygiene. And it's essential that the person administering the teat sealant has been trained on the correct technique – it's not the same as a dry cow tube.'

Julian agrees: 'When using teat sealant alone, the tubing technique needs to be meticulously hygienic, otherwise there is a risk of serious, sometimes fatal mastitis cases in the days following drying off.'

'With appropriate training and procedures however, the risks can be minimised. We always advise starting with a just few 'sealant only' cows until staff become confident in the sterility of infusion!'

SDCT – tips for success

Two Friars Moor clients that have successfully taken a selective approach with dry cow therapy are Stuart Rogers of Longmoor Farm, near Gillingham, and Joe Spicer of Gomershay Farm near Stalbridge. They have slightly different selection criteria and techniques.

Stuart has been carrying out SDCT for three years now; there has been no increase in fresh cow mastitis cases or cell counts in that time. The majority of cows have SCCs less than 100,000 cells/ml prior to drying off. Only 30% of the herd receives an antibiotic at drying off and this has reduced dry cow antibiotic tube use by 2,000 over the three years!



Left - right, Helen Rogers, Stuart Rogers, Julian Allen

Stuart explains: 'You need good information to make an informed decision about which cows get just the teat sealant. So it can only be done by farms which have monthly milk recordings and rigorously record all mastitis cases.'

The criteria for using a dry cow antibiotic (as well as a teat sealant) are: if a cow has had a cell count greater than 150,000 cells/ml, and/or a case of mastitis in the last three months of her lactation.

Stuart adds: 'Good hygiene and staff training are also really important. At the start we had a case of gangrenous mastitis in a cow which had only received the teat sealant, so we now pay particular attention to our infusion technique.'



Stuart Rogers using milk records

'We have the same person, our herdsman Steven Waters, doing the drying-off, and he's been properly trained up. Our 250-cow herd calves all year round, and we dry cows off on Mondays and Fridays. We always give him plenty of notice so that he can gather the relevant tubes and make sure everything is clean. Copious amounts of cotton wool and surgical spirit are used to get the teats really clean prior to inserting any sealant.'



Herdsman Steven Waters is responsible for drying off

Joe Spicer has also been successfully practising SDCT for three years, ever since he moved his 240-cow herd over to an autumn block-calving system. Cell counts are consistently in the 100,000-150,000 cells/ml range and only 6% of cows have calved in with cell counts over 200,000 in the past calving seasons.



Joe Spicer

His criteria for using a dry cow antibiotic (plus teat sealant) are made on a quarter by quarter basis. A dry cow antibiotic is given if any of these occur: a case of mastitis during lactation, a positive California Mastitis Test (CMT) in the week prior to drying off, or the

cow's SCC has been above 150,000 cells/ml for the last three recordings.

Joe explains: 'Cows are dried off weekly in batches of up to 20 animals. Individuals for drying off are tail taped and separated from the herd during morning milking and kept in sand cubicles on a straw/hay diet. In the afternoon milking, they are milked first and whilst still in the parlour, each cow is dried off with the appropriate treatment.'

Strict attention is paid to hygiene and infusion technique. Again, cotton wool soaked in surgical spirit is used to clean and sterilise the teats. 'This is much quicker and more effective than using the packets of wipes that come with the tubes,' says Joe.

'Drying off batches of cows at the start of milking has proved very successful. We can prepare the treatments that each cow requires, everything is clean and importantly all staff are fully focussed on the task in hand, rather than tired at the end of a long milking. In addition, once the cows have been treated, they can go directly to a clean environment, away from the milkers.'

Want to try SDCT?

Julian explains: 'It's likely that SDCT will become the 'norm' rather than the exception in the years ahead. It has been practised in some other countries for many years and there will be increasing pressure from milk buyers to reduce the use of antibiotics at drying off.'

'Although selective DCT should be suited to most herds with good control of mastitis, it is not suited to all. So it's important to speak to your vet first before changing your dry cow routine.'

He adds: 'Choosing which cows to selectively treat is relatively straightforward. But we can't stress enough – the sterility of infusion is critical for success.'

Take the pledge!

The European Antibiotic Awareness Day (EAAD) ran on 18th November; each year across Europe, the EAAD is marked by national campaigns on the prudent use of antibiotics in both human and veterinary health. In support of this, members of the public, vets and farmers are encouraged to become an Antibiotic Guardian – by choosing a pledge to undertake a simple action that can help prevent the development and spread of antibiotic resistance. For more information and to sign the pledge visit <http://antibioticguardian.com/>.



Larkmead
VETS




Veterinary surgeon **Adelle Isaacs**

XLVets practice **Larkmead Veterinary Group**



Adelle Isaacs, Larkmead Veterinary Group

New strategies to reduce lameness in the flock

At Sheepstead Farm near Abingdon in Oxfordshire, farm manager Andrew Isles runs 320 ewes. He receives help and advice from his vet, Adelle Isaacs of Larkmead Veterinary Group, on issues as they arise, and also has a flock health plan.

Adelle and Andrew meet annually to review the flock health plan – to go through what has been happening and look where improvements can be made. In March (2015), Andrew asked for some advice on footbathing solutions and whether he should start vaccinating for footrot – the main cause of lameness on the farm. Between them, a proactive campaign has now been put together which has involved some radical changes of practice.

Getting started

Andrew's flock is largely made up of North Country mules and a few Suffolk replacements which he buys in to 'calm them down'. Ewes are put to Suffolk rams and lamb down from March onwards, indoors.

Although sheep carry the EID tags, Andrew has not (yet) invested in any computer software to link to them and enable their performance or health to be tracked.

Adelle says: 'So on this farm it's not possible to look back through records and identify animals which are more susceptible to lameness. But this shouldn't be a barrier to improving animal health. We don't need to wait for everything to be perfect! Andrew wanted to reduce the incidence of lameness, and so we have developed a system that works now.'

'We have created some farm-specific measures to adopt using the 5-point plan as a basis.' (See opposite.)

Historically, Andrew has tackled lameness with annual foottrimming of all animals, and then spot-treatment of lame sheep with a long-acting antibiotic. Footbathing in zinc sulphate solution has also been carried out sporadically. The rams have been particularly prone to lameness, as they tend to group more closely together.

But last spring, Andrew embarked on a more focussed and proactive campaign. He went through the whole flock, inspecting their feet and rigorously culled out any sheep with mis-shapen feet or with a toe granuloma.

Then in August, the remaining sheep received their first vaccination against footrot.

Adelle explains: 'The footrot vaccine gives cover for six months. So going forward, the flock will be vaccinated prior to housing in January and then again after shearing – this means there isn't the extra handling which is one of the risk factors.'

'The January vaccination will allow enough time for antibody levels to rise before the ewes come indoors. If Andrew sees any limping after this, he will catch them and treat them separately.'



Adelle checking feet for the cause of lameness

Avoiding spread



Andrew Isles and Adelle Isaacs

Bringing ewes together into lambing sheds is recognised as a high risk period for spreading lameness. Andrew explains: 'There only need to be a few lame ewes – but they are carriers and so the rest start getting lame too.'

To help reduce spread, Adelle has recommended a more regular mucking out of the straw yards and the use of hydrated lime as a disinfectant in the lambing pens.

Adelle adds: 'Some farmers are also finding it beneficial to spread lime around feeders, troughs and gateways. It can be bought relatively cheaply from builders' merchants.'

Andrew also used to get outbreaks of lameness when sheep were grazing on wet ground due to poor drainage. So he is going to look into fencing off these areas with electric fencing.

Footbathing

Sheepstead Farm has sandy soil, and this is an irritant. Andrew explains: 'It dries around the top of the hoof. So I will run sheep gently through a footbath to clean their feet.'

Adelle explains: 'Andrew had been using zinc sulphate in the footbath but sheep need to stand in it for at least 15 minutes for it to be effective. So I advised a switch over to 2% formalin – then sheep just need to move through the bath at walking pace.'

Andrew adds: 'I'm careful to ensure it is a 2% concentration, as any stronger and it can be an irritant. And I always allow the sheep to stand on concrete afterwards, whilst their feet dry.'

'I've noticed the effects of the formalin are a lot more instant. I footbathed a group of 50 ewes with scald and within three days the lameness had cleared.'

Culling decisions

Adelle adds: 'Ideally, to eradicate lameness from a flock, any sheep that require treating for lameness a second time should be culled. But Andrew was concerned he would lose too many of his ewes that way, and so he gives them a third chance.'

Andrew and Adelle have created a system for monitoring lameness and identifying susceptible animals, and which does not require computer records.

Andrew uses a coloured marker spray. At the first case of lameness, the ewe/ram receives an orange dot on the head, and the second time around they get a dot on the shoulder. At the third case of lameness, they are marked on their rear and also given a purple cull ear tag. They are put into a separate 'lame' group and treated. Then they will go to the abattoir with the first batch of lambs in early February.



Cull and Barren Tags are an excellent method of recording

Foot-trimming stopped!

There has been a complete change of policy on foot-trimming. Andrew explains: 'Every autumn we used to check sheep's teeth and udders, and trim their feet. I've done it all my life. But last autumn, on Adelle's advice, we did not trim at all – because this can spread the scald or footrot. It's been quite an event for me to stop it! In fact, my wife has had to hide the foottrimmers!'

Adelle explains: 'The only cases that require trimming are where sheep are actively lame due to shelly hoof or white line disease. It's quite a change of practice, and mindset, for many sheep farmers.'

Quarantine

Andrew's flock health plan also has a quarantine protocol for bought-in animals. Sheep are kept separate from the flock for six weeks. They are footbathed on arrival and again before joining the main flock. They will now also receive a primary course of footrot vaccine.

Results pending

Andrew is hoping with this new focus on lameness that he will eventually eradicate it altogether. He is also keen to see a reduction in the use of antibiotics, not only from a cost viewpoint but also ultimately food safety.

The financial returns of the new strategies are not yet known. However Adelle expects, all other elements being equal, that Andrew will see a higher scanning percentage, and ultimately see more lambs reared per ewe mated. Lambs with healthy feet should also finish faster.

Andrew agrees: 'Sheep that are up on their four feet grazing will be in better body

condition than lame ones. Going to the tup is only half of it. It's also important that ewes have good quality eggs and stay in good condition to hold to lamb. Then they can carry two lambs and not succumb to twin-lamb disease.'

Adelle adds: 'The big changes at Sheepstead Farm have been in the stopping of foot-trimming and the use of a vaccine against footrot. But key to success with reducing lameness is to take a balanced approach, and tackle every area of the 5-point plan.'



FarmSkills sheep lameness courses

In June 2015, XLVets launched the health initiative 'Stand up to Sheep Lameness' to help farmers focus on controlling the problem.

Many XLVets practices, including Larkmead Veterinary Group, have been holding FarmSkills training courses to show farmers how to identify the causes of lameness and learn what the best treatment options are. Andrew kindly hosted one of these very practical courses. He had gathered his group of cull (lame) ewes and Adelle showed the attending farmers what to look for, and how best to treat the specific causes of lameness.

To find out about courses running in your local area, speak to your XLVets practice or visit www.farmskills.co.uk.

Five Point Plan to reducing lameness

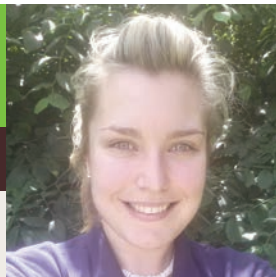
1. **TREAT** – quickly and correctly
2. **AVOID** – gathering more than necessary, segregate lame sheep
3. **CULL** – susceptible breeding animals
4. **QUARANTINE** – check feet on arrival; spray all feet with antibiotic/footbath them
5. **VACCINATE** – discuss footrot vaccine protocol with your vet



AHDB Beef & Lamb Better Returns Programme
Reducing Lameness for Better Returns manual

FarmSkills

GROWING FARM BUSINESS SUCCESS



FarmSkills sheep lameness courses

By **LEANNE FORD**, BISHOPTON VETERINARY GROUP

I have been working at Bishopton Veterinary Group since the end of last year and am thoroughly enjoying being part of the team.

One of the reasons I wanted to work for an XLVets practice is the opportunity to get involved in farmer training and discussion groups. I have a keen interest in flock medicine and so getting involved in the XLVets steering group for the 'stand up to sheep lameness' initiative seemed like a great opportunity to get involved.

In order to make sure that I am up to speed with delivering training, I have attended various courses throughout this year.

Firstly, I attended the VetSkills 'train the trainer' course, which as the name suggests, helps you learn how to train

effectively using different techniques. The course is run over two days and is very interactive involving various games as well as a role play at the end to practise your training skills to the group. With my enthusiasm for cookery, I taught the task of dicing a mango neatly; somewhat removed from calving cows and lambing sheep!

Following on from this, I have also attended various flock health based courses. A course particularly relevant to the sheep lameness FarmSkills course was titled 'building your sheep business', delivered by the sheep consultant Lesley Stubbings. This course

was aimed to help vets become more involved in flock health and to raise awareness that lambing season is not the only time we can be of service to clients. This course gave me plenty of food for thought and has helped me to contribute to Bishopton's Flock Health Scheme, a service that we offer to our farmers to allow a more proactive approach to sheep. This course also tied in very well with the XLVets 'stand up to sheep lameness initiative', where the key message to farmers is that prevention is always better than cure in flock medicine.



Leanne running her FarmSkills lameness course in October

The sheep lameness steering group consists of vets with a passion for sheep medicine, from across the XLVets practices. We have had various meetings throughout the year via phone, email and face-to-face to set up the initiative. We have come up with a consensus of guidelines based on scientific evidence to ensure that husbandry practices on sheep farms are optimised; which in turn will help to reduce lameness on a flock level nationally. We felt that running a FarmSkills course for our clients and local sheep farmers was a good opportunity to talk about the initiative and discuss sheep lameness in more depth.

We held our FarmSkills sheep lameness course in October. Being the first FarmSkills course I had been involved in, it has been a great help that the FarmSkills team are based here at the Bishopton practice, to support me with training materials and ideas.

The theme of the course was based around the guidelines set by the XLVets sheep lameness steering group

where we discussed the causes of sheep lameness and current best practice on how to treat these diseases. The key message is 'do not to trim an infected foot' – as expected, there was plenty of healthy discussion around a change to this long-standing practice. The five point plan for sheep lameness control, set out by the FAI, supports this message which states five fundamental points to follow: Treat, Avoid, Cull, Quarantine and Vaccinate, (see page 12).

In light of 'train the trainer' and keeping people engaged, these were discussed interactively. We started with myth busting common statements about managing sheep lameness. Then went on to learn about the individual causes of lameness; how to identify lesions and treat individual cases. After lunch we covered sheep handling and discussed trimming where appropriate. I purposely did not do a foot trimming practical as I did not want the onus of the course to be about trimming, more about the take home messages. To appeal to the more active learners in the group,

things then got a bit game show! With the help of our practice handyman I made a spinning the 'wheel of sheep lameness', where we discussed each point of the five point plan areas when they were landed on. Interestingly most of the farmers follow these control points without realising it. The day was then rounded off with the XLvets 'play your cards right'. I was pleased to know that the farmers had taken in what I had been saying earlier!

I thoroughly enjoyed holding my first FarmSkills course and learning some novel tips on managing lameness from the farmers too! The course delegates varied from smallholders to larger commercial shepherds; this made it very interesting as they all had different points of view and experiences; which they all shared throughout the day. There are plenty of controlling FarmSkills sheep lameness workshops running across the country, so look out for a course date running near you. I enjoyed ours so much, I will be running it again! www.farmskills.co.uk

Identifying the causes of sheep lameness



Sheep infected with footrot and CODD



Footrot



Leanne running her lameness course



Shelly hoof pre trim



Shelly hoof post trim



Leanne discussing sheep lameness with farmers at North Sheep

Scheme helps heifer replacements make 400kg by 400 days



parklands
VETERINARY GROUP



Veterinary surgeon **Treenie Bowser**

XLVets practice **Parklands Veterinary Practice**

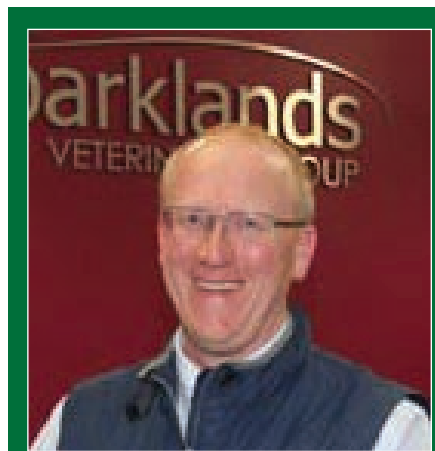


TREENIE BOWSER, PARKLANDS VETERINARY PRACTICE, NORTHERN IRELAND

Over the past two years, XLVets' Parklands Veterinary Practice in Northern Ireland has been running a scheme to help dairy farmers get their heifer calves off to a good start in life, stay healthy and continue to grow well. It's called the 4x4 Club – the aim is for heifers to weigh at least 400kg by 400 days of age, so that ultimately they can calve down at the recognised ideal of 24 months of age.

The 4x4 Club

Parklands' practice manager David Mulligan explains: 'When we launched the 4x4 Club in September 2013, the average age at first calving in Northern Ireland was 30 months, and amongst Parklands' clients, 28-29 months.



David Mulligan, practice manager, Parklands

'There are economic losses in having a later first calving date; not only high heifer rearing costs and a longer time to payback, but also reduced lifetime yields and cow longevity.

'We held two information evenings, and there was both interest and surprise at the inefficiencies we were highlighting.

'We designated four of our vets across the two practice branches to buddy up with participating farms. A monthly membership fee is charged and in return, those who sign up to the Club attend four half-day training courses on rearing the different ages of the calf. Farmers also receive an initial consultancy visit where the vet evaluates every area of calf rearing – housing, feeding, colostrum quality, etc. Advice on improvements can then be made. Participants are also given a colostrumeter and weigh tape. On an ongoing basis, we carry out total protein checks on young calves to assess antibody transfer from colostrum, and take dung samples for faecal egg counts to determine coccidiosis and worm burdens, so that appropriate prevention strategies can be put in place.

'We have found the regular support of monitoring total proteins in young calves along with diagnostic support that is available to club members, e.g. to investigate scouring, has helped Club members and the wellbeing of calves across the practice has flourished.'

'We had run a very successful club for dairy clients – the Parklands Udder Management Programme, 'PUMP' – and felt as vets, we had the ability to collate all the correct information on how best to rear calves, and disseminate this to our clients.



Calf rearing focus brings age at first calving down

Amongst the first farmers to sign up to the 4x4 scheme were Alfred and Margaret Hartley of Iniscarn, near Moneymore, who milk 180 cows, all year round. They had already formed a good working relationship with their vet Treenie Bowser through PUMP.



Alfred and Margaret Hartley

Treenie explains: 'When the Hartleys first joined the 4x4 Club, their heifers were calving down at 28-29 months, which is 4-5 months later than the target. This was due to a combination of factors which we have systematically gone through and changed.'

'Although I'd been visiting the farm for years, PD-ing and latterly to help them reduce cell counts through PUMP, I'd never looked, or been asked to look at the calves until then.'

Improvements in the calf shed

Calves are reared in a shed on the farm that was not purpose-built for the job; there are some individual hutches outside too.

Treenie explains: 'The floor of the calf shed had poor drainage and was often wet. This was contributing to problems with cryptosporidiosis and then pneumonia. So the Hartleys have improved the drainage which has helped reduce the disease challenge, and I've drawn up a dosing protocol for crypto control.'



Checking colostrum quality

Colostrum quality is now assessed using the colostrometer. Alfred has been surprised with the findings: 'Some cows had poorer quality colostrum than I expected. And vice versa. So now we ensure that only good quality colostrum is frozen.'

Margaret looks after the calves on the farm and admits to having learnt a lot from joining the Club: 'We used to give calves access to water once they were a week old – but I now know we need to supply it from Day One. It's a small change, but it has made a difference – calves start eating their calf pellets sooner. So despite 37 years of calf-rearing, there's still more to learn!'



Calves should have access to clean drinking water from Day 1.



The Hartleys and Treenie

'And we didn't appreciate how thin the hide of a calf is, and how easily they chill. One of the biggest improvements we have seen is through the use of calf coats.'

The coats are put onto every calf when it is born, then taken off 4-5 weeks later, and washed before being re-used. Margaret adds: 'If a calf has a bit of scour, then this helps keep its temperature up so it can get better sooner. We started with just five coats, but have now got 25.'

'At first Alfred thought it was just a gimmick, but when I'm shivering away feeding them in the outdoor calf hutches, they are eating and happily swishing their tails!'

'The first 3-4 weeks are critical. Our calves are now growing faster – I didn't realise they could grow so well.'

Improvements at grass

When heifers were turned out onto grass in May/June, performance used to drop off. This was due to a combination of coccidiosis, gut worms and also liver and stomach flukes.

Alfred admits that they were not always receiving their wormer drenches at the right time and questioned whether he was using the right products.

Treenie explains: 'Here in Ireland, as well as liver fluke, we have a lot of problems with stomach/rumen fluke – especially over the past four years in intensely stocked grazing areas.'

Treenie drew up a drenching programme for the Hartleys which would ensure that the correct product was being used at the correct time. To check its effectiveness, dung samples are taken when the heifers are housed for the winter, and again at Christmas, and egg/oocyst counts monitored.

Alfred explains: 'We follow Treenie's drenching protocol to the book. It's definitely helped improve the health in the older calves, and hence also their growth rates.'

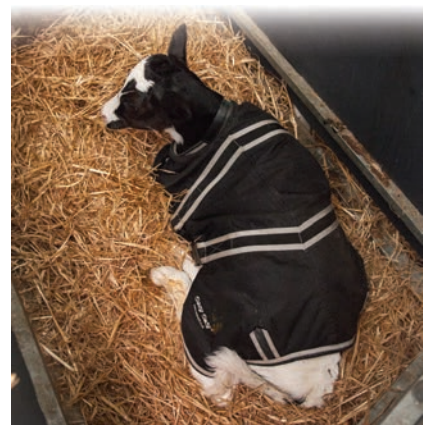
'Another change she instigated was instead of continuing to feed the calf pellets to grazing heifers, we are now feeding a higher energy/protein heifer rearing nut.'

Success

Two years after joining the 4x4 Club, the Hartleys have fewer cases of crypto, pneumonia and scour, and healthier, faster-growing heifers. They currently have a batch of heifers calving down at close to 26 months, and the next cohort is on-track to calve at the 24 month target.

Margaret says: 'We had to pay to join the Club, and were a bit sceptical thinking it was just a money-making venture for the practice. But I have to say, it has certainly paid dividends back to us! We've realised we need to be working with our vet; the vet bill represents investment in the business, and we need to be preventing disease.'

Treenie adds: 'The 4x4 scheme has shown us that some farmers are treating their animals for disease, but without being sure of the cause. So they are just 'fighting in the dark'. As vets, we can, if invited to, investigate the cause of diseases or scour, and put a prevention programme in place. Sick calves take longer to look after than healthy ones.'



GRADUATE DIARY

Katherine Lumb, BVSc MSc MRCVS

Bishopton Veterinary Group



About me

I graduated from the University of Liverpool in summer 2014 and joined the ten vet strong, ruminant team at Bishopton Vets shortly after. An interest in farm animal production and the maintenance and promotion of production efficiency was a key factor in my decision to become a vet and is something that I had a primary interest in throughout vet school training, pushing me to want to work in farm animal practice. I started the XLVets Graduate Programme in September 2014 alongside eleven other recently qualified vets to help develop our skills and interests in farm animal practice. I have a keen interest in infectious disease control and youngstock health and management and would like to develop my interests and skills in these areas further as my career develops. I also have a strong working link with RAFT Solutions Ltd regularly undertaking industry led research projects alongside clinical work. Outside of work I enjoy mountaineering and cycling and am a keen singer.

All in a day's work...

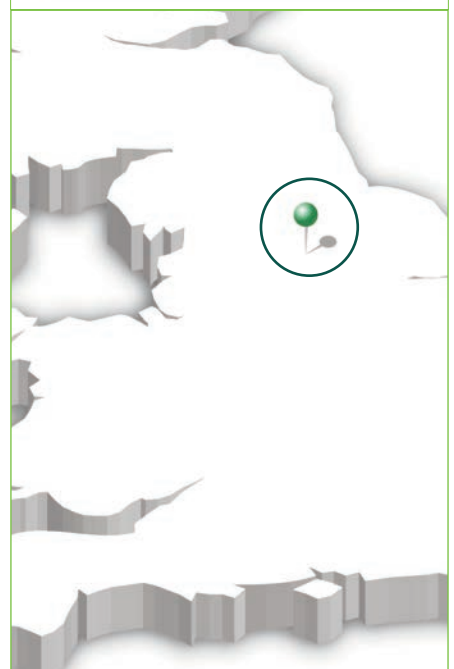
My need for a balance between clinical farm vetting and research work has made my first year in practice slightly different from a lot of my colleagues and friends, but I think it's fair to say that between the support I have received and opportunities I have been given, Bishopton have made it a pretty successful one.

Carrying out high level research in practice is an area of the veterinary industry, particularly the farm sector, that is really starting to grow and doing project work with Bishopton and Synergy Farm Health's sister company RAFT Solutions has given me opportunities that I never thought I would reach in my first 18 months out of university. Completing my first full project has given me the chance to go and present this work to industry leaders and design a poster for the British Cattle Veterinary Association (BCVA) congress this autumn. It was a slightly surreal moment hanging a poster next to the people I am used to reading about in journals and textbooks, but a definite high point of the year to think that I had achieved something of that standard alongside working as a real life, get your hands dirty, farm vet.

The last six months have also seen a big change in my on farm development as I have taken on more and more herd responsibilities. Taking on these responsibilities has meant that I have been involved in everything from regular fertility visits to writing herd health plans and ongoing regular monitoring of farm data. This has always been the area of farm vetting that has interested me most and I have really enjoyed getting stuck into it, but it comes hand in hand with increased responsibility which is something I think is of

the utmost importance, especially when making farms run as efficiently as possible is as important as it is at the moment. Working more closely with individual farms has also given me much more frequent and regular interaction with individuals and given me the chance to really develop relationships with them. Although poles apart from presenting posters at conferences, it is again another real high point and sense of achievement when a client rings you as 'their vet' for advice.

When I decided that I wanted to do a mix of clinical work and research during my final years of vet school I never really thought it would be possible to do both hand in hand to a standard that I would be happy with. But as I look back over the last year and what I have achieved it would look as if I have nailed it to a tee. The support and encouragement I have received, from both colleagues and clients, has helped me to become a good farm vet but also created this extra string to my bow with the research opportunities. As my friends from university start to get the two year itch and think about moving on to new challenges, I feel more as though I have really found my footing and hope to just continue to develop and grow both with clinical, on farm, work as well as with scientific research.



GRADUATE DIARY

Matthew Hylands, BVM BVS BVMedSci MRCVS

Lambert, Leonard & May

Over and out!

Well here goes my last ever article, which means a year has gone by from the first one. Obviously time flies when you're having fun!

And what a year it's been. It's been a year of firsts: my first job as a vet, my first caesarean, my first routine fertility visit: my first ram breeding soundness exam and my first holiday (in a looong time)! As nice as it was to kick back and relax in the sun of Lanzarote, after a week of looking at nothing but scorched soils and cacti I was ridiculously keen to get back to good old rainy Lancashire and scan some cows. Perhaps my next holiday will be to somewhere with a bit more of an agricultural interest and not quite as hot. Like Ireland, if I can get it past the girlfriend!

As a student I never truly realised just how much office work is involved in the day to day life of a farm vet. After a welcome quieter spell during the summer months we seem to have picked up again as of late, which is a relief because there's only so much paper work a man can do! I do enjoy some office time though, especially getting to this time of the year, and I do welcome the opportunity to explore some less traditional avenues of work. Recently I've been lucky enough to get heavily involved with developing a new herd health review service for our dairy farmers which includes updates and analyses on various parameters including fertility and infectious

diseases at regular intervals throughout the year. This sort of service is vital to our clients, never more so than in the current climate and is without a doubt where the future of farm vetting lies.

Although most of our work here at LLM is centred on the dairy industry it's important that we don't forget about our sheep and beef clients. Off the back of our successful Sheep Discussion Group I recently organised a trip for our newly created Beef Discussion Group to visit a few innovative beef farms in North Yorkshire. After swallowing their pride and crossing the border into Yorkshire all the delegates had a thoroughly interesting day touring the Yorkshire home of the world renowned Wagyu breed and then moseying around the contrasting but extremely impressive Stabiliser set up just next door. A great day was had by all and we hope to build on this success with more meetings/trips in the New Year.

Finally, I'd like to say good luck to all the newly graduated vets. I hope you have just as good a first year as I've had with just as many mishaps along the way!



About me

I graduated from Nottingham vet school in the summer of 2014 shortly before moving to the scenic North West to pursue a career in farm animal practice with the Lancashire branch of Lambert, Leonard and May. Coming from Northern Ireland I'm well used to the rain, however the rural Lancashire accent was another challenge altogether!

With most of our work being dairy based I'm lucky enough to find myself in a position of relative responsibility having a handful of regular routines to my name already. Having recently finished the XLVets Graduate Programme I feel much more confident in day-to-day practice life and have also managed to find myself in a larger network of farm animal new graduates sharing information and experiences on a regular basis.

Outside of work I enjoy shooting of any kind and I've recently bought a mountain bike to make the most of the beautiful fells and moors up here.



Sheep discussion group



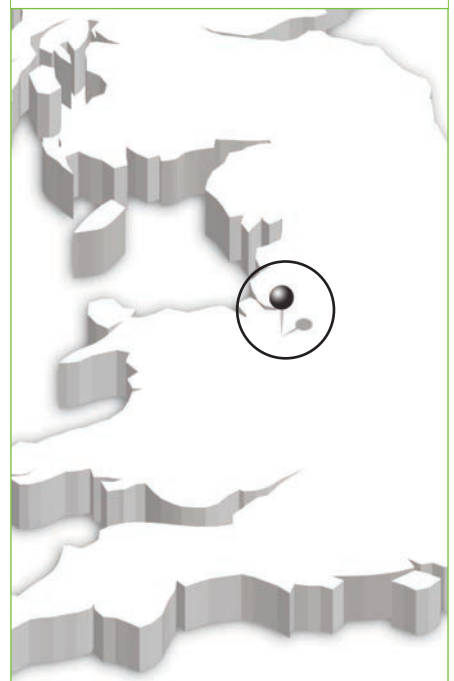
Stabiliser unit



Wagyu Burgers



Wagyu unit



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Practical Lambing



3 February 2016 Aberdeen
Management at Lambing Time



4 February 2016 Ayrshire
Cattle Lameness and Foot Trimming



9 February 2016 Cumbria
DIY AI



10 February 2016 Cumbria
Practical Lambing



10 February 2016 Lanark
Practical Lambing



25 February 2016 Northumberland
Practical Lambing



21 April 2016 Cumbria
Safe and Effective Use of Veterinary Medicines



7 January 2016 Herefordshire
Safe and Effective Use of Veterinary Medicines



13 January 2016 Cheshire
Foot Trimming



20 January 2016 Shropshire
Safe and Effective Use of Veterinary Medicines



28 January 2016 Devon
Practical Calving



10 February 2016 Cheshire
Safe and Effective Use of Veterinary Medicines



10 February 2016 Dorset
Safe and Effective Use of Veterinary Medicines



17 February 2016 Somerset
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Please note dates are subject to change